

GENERAL DE PUY RETIRES

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After more than 35 years in the United States Army, General William E. DePuy, the President of the Society of the First Division, ended his active army career on June 30, 1977.

A veteran of both World War II and Vietnam, General DePuy was born in Jamestown, North Dakota. As a student at South Dakota State College, where he was graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, General DePuy participated in ROTC. On June 25, 1941 he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry.

Initially assigned to the 20th Infantry Regiment of the 6th Infantry Division at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, General DePuy was transferred in March of 1942 to the 357th as a Company Officer, Regimental Operations Officer and Battalion Commander while the unit was a part of Patton's famous Third Army in Europe.

During his wartime duty, General DePuy was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in August of 1942 and Captain in June of the following year. In August of 1944, General DePuy was promoted to Major and the following January he pinned on the silver leaf of a Lieutenant Colonel.

Returning from wartime duty, General DePuy attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. Upon completion of the course he was assigned in 1946 to the War Department General Staff. He served in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1. While on this assignment he received his appointment to the Regular Army.

In 1948 he studied Russian at the Army Language School and the following year he was designated as the Military Attache in Budapest, Hungary. After two years in Hungary General DePuy returned to the United States for a two-year assignment with the Central Intelligence Agency at its Washington headquarters.

Following attendance at the Armed Forces Staff College in 1953, General DePuy returned to Europe as Assistant G-3 of V Corps. His next assignment in 1954 was as Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division in Germany. This was followed by a short tour as Deputy Chief of Staff, V Corps. In 1955 he was promoted to Colonel.

Returning to the United States, General DePuy served four years in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army. Attendance at the British Imperial Defense College in London followed. He then returned to Germany where he spent the next 18 months commanding the 1st Battle Group, 30th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division at Schweinfurt, Germany.

In the spring of 1962, General DePuy returned to the United States as Director of Special Warfare



in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations. In April of the following year, he became Director of Plans and Programs in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development. Two months later he pinned on his first star as a Brigadier General.

In May of 1964, General DePuy was assigned to Vietnam for what was to be a tour of almost three years. His first assignment was as Assistant Chief of Staff, J-3 (Operations) of the United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV).

In March of 1966, General DePuy was assigned as the Commanding General, First Infantry Division in Vietnam. The following month he was promoted to the rank of Major General.

After a year as the Big Red One Commander, General DePuy returned to the United States for assignment as Special Assistant for Counterinsurgency and Special Activities in the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In January of 1969 he was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army. On March 10 of that year he was promoted to Lieutenant General and assigned the position of Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

On February 28, 1973 General DePuy left the Pentagon for a new assignment as Deputy Commanding General of the Continental Army Command (CONARC) at Fort Monroe, Virginia. On June 29, 1973, General DePuy assumed Command of the Training and Doctrine Command.

It has been reported that General DePuy will shortly be named to President Carter's Blue Ribbon Commission to study military compensation.

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